

MEETING SUMMARY
FOREST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FMAC) MEETING
Michigan United Conservation Clubs of Michigan
2101 Wood Street, Lansing
November 7, 2007
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FMAC Members Present

Ms. Lynne Boyd, Chair, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Ms. Erin McDonough, Michigan United Conservation Clubs of Michigan
Mr. William Cook, Michigan State University Extension
Dr. Margaret (Peg) Gale, Michigan Technological University
Mr. William Manson, Jr., Michigan Snowmobile Association
Mr. Marvin Roberson, Sierra Club (representing Ms. Anne Woiwode)
Mr. Desmond Jones, Michigan Tree Farm System
Mr. Thomas Dunn, American Motorcycle Association, District 14
Mr. George Berghorn, Michigan Forest Products Council

FMAC Members Absent

Mr. Warren Suchovsky, Suchovsky Logging
Ms. Rachel Kuntzsch, Heart of the Lakes
Mr. Joel Blohm, Great Northern Lumber of Michigan
Mr. Frank Ruswick, Department of Environmental Quality
Ms. Susan Holben, MEDC
Mr. Gordon Wenk, Michigan Department of Agriculture
Mr. William Bobier, Earthscape Resource Management
Mr. Dan Keathley, Michigan State University

FMAC Committee Advisors Present

Ms. Leanne Marten, USDA Forest Service

Public Attendees/Guests

Dr. Charles Nelson, Michigan State University
Ms. Judy McReavy, Oxford, Roscommon County
Mr. Bob McReavy, Oxford, Roscommon County

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Staff Present

Ms. Kerry Gray
Ms. Kim Korbecki

Welcome

Chair Boyd welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC or Committee) to order at 1:25 p.m. She introduced **Mr. Marvin Roberson**, Sierra Club, attending as representative for **Ms. Anne Woiwode**.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Boyd reviewed the agenda and asked for comments or additions. An update on the recent Forest Certification Audit was added as an agenda item. An update on the Pigeon River Country Concept of Management presentation to the Natural Resources Commission was also added to the agenda. The Agenda could not be passed due to the lack of a quorum.

Adoption of Meeting Summary/August 1, 2007 and September 12, 2007

Chair Boyd commented there were not enough members present for a quorum. Adoption of Meeting Summary for the August 1, 2007 and September 12, 2007 FMAC Meeting Summary was tabled for movement at the December 5, 2007 meeting.

STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2008-2012

Chair Boyd introduced **Dr. Nelson**, Michigan State University (MSU). **Dr. Nelson** was contracted by the State of Michigan to develop the SCORP. **Chair Boyd** turned the floor over to **Dr. Nelson**.

Dr. Nelson presented a Power Point to the Committee. The team who developed SCORP consisted of various members of the DNR, with assistance from MSU. **Dr. Nelson** commented the SCORP summarizes various recreation data, collected by a survey of Michigan citizens. The DNR has been mandated to have a plan to gain access to Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants.

Dr. Nelson reported the recommended initiatives for the 2008-2012 plan:

Keep the seven from 2003-2007

- Conservation
- Trails
- Universal access
- Community outdoor recreation
- Improve state parks
- Improve state forest recreation
- Cooperation/coordination

Rationale

- Strong voter support
- Strong local provider support
- Strong support in complementary initiatives in DNR and elsewhere

Add two additional initiatives

- Hunter and angler recruitment and retention
 - Two of the five most important activities for Michigan voters
 - One of the four highest priorities for DNR
 - Hunting/fishing provides largest share of operations funding for conservation in Michigan
 - Capital improvements and complementary programming can provide important gateway for new, returning and continuing participants
- Green technology in parks and recreation
 - Focus on energy savings, recycling/re-use, pollution abatement
 - Demonstrate leadership in conservation/stewardship
 - Reduce long-term costs
 - Educate public with hands-on examples

Dr. Nelson reported there is an opportunity for the state to be leaders in energy conservation. We have a tremendous way to reach out to people in a positive way.

Dr. Nelson stated a copy of SCORP was placed on the DNR website after public comment, on September 25. Workshops were held across the state with good input received. The 3 most common comments received were the plan was too long, so the team made a 7 page executive

summary, North Country Trails should get more focus in the plan, and mountain biking was not included. People expressed appreciation the team took time to listen. **Dr. Nelson** stated the team is now revising the Draft plan and a final plan will be released shortly. There will be additional opportunity for public comment at the December NRC meeting before going to the Director of Natural Resources for approval. It will then be moved on to the Governor. The hope is to have the plan to the National Park Service prior to December 31.

Chair Boyd thanked **Dr. Nelson** for the presentation and asked him what he was looking for from the Committee. **Dr. Nelson** replied he only wanted it presented to the Committee for information. **Chair Boyd** asked if the team will still be taking comments on the plan; **Dr. Nelson** answered **Mr. Jim Wood**, DNR, will be taking additional comments. **Ms. McDonough** asked about the range of money involved in the grants; **Dr. Nelson** responded the grants range from \$30,000 to \$1 million. He provided a few tips for applying for one of the LWCF grants. **Dr. Gale** asked about state park visitation; **Dr. Nelson** replied over the last 20 years visitation has been down 6 – 8%. **Ms. Marten** reported federal park visitation has gone down, also. **Chair Boyd** commented she thought dispersed camping, as well as state forest campgrounds, has went up a bit. Overall use of state forests has been going up. **Dr. Nelson** commented that it is easier to determine activity in state parks because of their gated condition, whereas state forest campgrounds are more on an honor system.

Chair Boyd requested **Dr. Nelson** inform the Committee of a current proposal that is currently in the Draft stage. **Dr. Nelson** stated he is a member of the Citizen's Committee for Michigan's State Parks. The draft is proposing a vehicle registration for motor vehicles. Citizens would pay an extra amount when registering their vehicles and the dollars would be earmarked to state parks and recreation areas, state forest recreation, and local units for development of recreation areas. The proposal is suggesting \$9 annually, eliminating the need for a motor vehicle or BAS permit. Citizens would be given the right to opt-out in the manner of a refund. **Dr. Nelson** reported the state of Montana is the only other state to try this, and 80% of the population paid the fee the first year, with 87% paying the second year. The citizen's committee evaluated 3 scenarios, 65%, 70% and 75% participation. This is being looked at because of the reduction in General Funds. Discussion ensued.

Dr. Nelson thanked the Committee for allowing him to present SCORP. **Chair Boyd** thanked **Dr. Nelson**.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. McReavy stated they had items he would like the DNR to consider for the Forest Management Plan. He stated he had a person come in to survey his property, and read the opening statement of the survey to the Committee. The survey discussed cutting of aspen in small parcels, rather than large parcels as the state does. It also discussed cutting of oaks, advising cutting 10 - 60% rather than the massive cutting the state does. He commented he would like to see the state consider this technique.

Mr. McReavy reported on a November 6 meeting with Crawford and Roscommon counties. **Mr. McReavy** did not attend this meeting, but is only reporting on it based on discussions with people he knows that did attend. It was supposed to be a public comment meeting, but his feeling was it was a debate with forestry people who were trying to sell their practices. Many people felt frustrated after this meeting. **Mr. McReavy** reported on the September 12 Advisory Committee meeting which toured Roscommon. **Mr. McReavy's** opinion of this meeting was although the public was allowed to make their comments and express their frustrations it turned into another argument with the DNR. He felt the debate among the Committee, public and DNR

staff took up so much time they didn't have time to show the Committee all the spots they wanted them to see. He feels the DNR is only concerned about timber sales, rather than the local economy. He stated he received a letter from Roscommon County expressing frustration from the local government on fee increases for hunting, out-of-control clear-cutting and lack of consideration for the people who live in Roscommon. They also expressed concern about losing revenue in their county because of DNR practices.

Mr. McReavy went on to say the July FMAC meeting was also a field tour and had the same results. He asked what percentage of the 40 square miles they were looking at could be left alone, and received an answer of 3%, which he considers unacceptable. He asked the Committee to consider what can be done to correct the massive clear-cutting and devastation of public forests. He felt a more serious look should be taken at the results of his survey. **Chair Boyd** thanked **Mr. McReavy** for his comments.

September FMAC Field Tour

Chair Boyd asked the Committee to recap the September 12 field tour. **Mr. Berghorn**, **Mr. Cook** and **Mr. Roberson** attended the tour out of the Committee members present. **Chair Boyd** asked the Committee what it would like to do with the information obtained from the field tour and if it was the will of the group to take action. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Jones asked the purpose for the harvest from the DNR. **Mr. Berghorn** commented the field staff that was on the tour explained to the public group the purpose of the clear-cut was for regeneration. They all discussed prescribed burns, compartment review process and a wildlife component. **Dr. Gale** stated she liked the idea of looking more closely at the landscape view; perhaps look at entire area and what the DNR is striving to accomplish. Look at timeline, present cover and size, and look at projection of the future. In doing so the people of Roscommon would be able to get an idea of future landscape. **Ms. McDonough** commented she felt the field staff showed the future plan on the first tour. **Mr. Berghorn** stated the most telling thing on the tours was as they drove from point to point and passed through large tracts of 20, 30, etc. year-old clear-cut that had regenerated already. **Mr. Cook** commented he felt the landscape aspect had already been demonstrated and considerations are already in place. He stated the process can be refined and improved, but basically what has been done in the area has been done well.

Mr. Roberson commented there were two concerns that were site-specific and answers were given clearly for the first. He felt the second concern, regarding the landscape level, was not answered clearly or addressed well. **Dr. Gale** commented the general public does not always see things the way people who are trained in forestry do. **Chair Boyd** stated she feels the DNR is doing a good job. She reported IFMAP is being developed, which is technology that will help with documentation including the end-result which is looking at the landscape level. The DNR will continue to inventory on a regular basis, but will also have the ability to look at all areas outside of the scheduled inventory.

Chair Boyd commented the Management Area Concept will help to engage public in looking at landscapes and what the DNR objectives are. She reported the State Forest Management Plan will be presented to the NRC in February 2008. This plan has already been through multiple public hearings as well as different levels of public involvement at the ecoregional levels. IFMAP has been implemented across the state as able, but at this point the budget issue has brought it to a standstill. **Chair Boyd** also stated the DNR has made proposals to the Forest Finance Authority to increase data collection and to more quickly populate the IFMAP database,

and speed up the IFMAP process. **Dr. Gale** asked if it was possible to get IFMAP to Roscommon; **Chair Boyd** responded she wasn't sure but would check into it.

Mr. Roberson commented people feel harvesting has increased dramatically in last five years; he suggested comparing to Gaylord's records. **Dr. Gale** suggested looking at age distribution for the past 10 years. **Chair Boyd** stated that data should be obtainable. **Mr. Cook** commented the September 12 field tour was not abbreviated; there was not a lot of arguing only disagreement on the way things are done. The public asked about visitation and he felt the Committee had seen everything they needed to see. **Chair Boyd** stated the DNR will look at acreage cut sizes in Roscommon Management Unit, and age class distribution through time to see if techniques are changing. She asked the Committee if there was anything else they wanted to focus on. **Mr. Cook** responded more importance should be placed on the public input process and how it works, and how it can be enhanced and improved to deal with these kinds of issues before they become issues.

Chair Boyd commented on public participation; the DNR is going through a value stream mapping process, focusing in on public involvement process, but have discovered the process is not very effective. Only 90 comments were received on the State Forest Plan. There is a need to make the public know about what is happening and how it will impact their lives. **Chair Boyd** reported the DNR will be hiring a facilitator with an aggressive timeline, and will be using value stream mapping to look at it. She stated the DNR has also been working with the southern Lower Peninsula ecoregional team to involve owners in Southern Michigan in big rural areas. A proposal will be presented next month at Statewide Council. **Dr. Gale** suggested more community involvement, partnering with schools, inviting classes and parents and grandparents to participate, might assist in getting people to show up. **Chair Boyd** stated she would bring the information requested at today's meeting to the next meeting.

2008 DNR Budget Impact on Forest Management Activities

Chair Boyd reported to the Committee that on Thursday afternoon October 25, the DNR was asked to put together \$1 million in cuts from the Forest Development Fund. This resulted in staff layoffs and other significant impacts. By the following Monday, October 29, the DNR was requested to submit a plan to cut \$500,000; this would be coming out of the General Fund, \$423,000 from Recreation and \$75,000 from Forest Resource Cooperative Forestry. This was 2/3 of what was in the Recreation Fund covering state forest campgrounds and non-motorized pathways. These cuts resulted in the closure of an additional 30 state forest campgrounds and deletion of all maintenance on pathways including volunteer agreements and Recreation Improvement Fund (RIF) grant administration. RIF grants and voluntary agreements cannot be maintained because funds are not available to pay staff to administer them. The decision was made to close the additional 30 campgrounds, leaving 91 campgrounds open and no longer maintaining the pathways.

In addition, 40 short-term workers will not be hired this year and existing full-time staff will have to take on the maintenance of the remaining 91 open campgrounds. Fire staff will also have to perform maintenance on campgrounds. The capability of staff to do this work will have to be looked at in relation to fire season.

Chair Boyd stated a press release would be going out announcing the additional campground closures and lack of maintenance on pathways. She reported this would include 3 major pathways (Ogemaw Hills, VASA and Blueberry Hill), and the DNR will not be entering into partnership agreements they cannot monitor. **Chair Boyd** stated the DNR will be cutting all private land services except for federal programs. Commercial Forest Management staff will be

shifted into state forest management issues such as timber objectives. **Chair Boyd** stated that the Governor vetoed \$1 million from the DNR budget that was to go to the Michigan Department of Agriculture to fund Conservation District Foresters. Those funds were not returned to the DNR. **Dr. Donna LaCourt** is currently discussing with stakeholders ways to build a private land program. **Chair Boyd** finished by saying the DNR is hopeful they will be able to make a case via public input, to get some of the General Fund budget back in 2008.

Chair Boyd reported GAFMPs was presented to the NRC last November and is now up for yearly review. The DNR has not received one comment from the public. She asked the Committee if they wanted to leave the GAMPS as is, or bring them back to the FMAC for review. Mr. Berghorn asked if there could be one change made, brought up by the Michigan Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee; the toll-free SFI inconsistent practices hotline number needs to be added to the GAFMPs document online in an effort to better publicize that program; **Chair Boyd** responded this can be accomplished.

MOTION: **Mr. Cook** moved to pass GAFMPs to the NRC, seconded by **Dr. Gale**.
Quorum not available to pass motion; motion tabled until December 5 meeting.

Chair Boyd will check into passing a motion via e-mail.

FOREST CERTIFICATION AUDIT UPDATE

Chair Boyd reported the audit closed on Thursday of last week (November 1). There is not yet a final report. The CARS of 2006 with the exception of 1 were closed; this will most likely be closed pending submittal of additional information. There were 7 CARS total last year, with only 3 this year basically dealing with planning efforts. An Ecoregional planning document needs to be created by 2008, the State Forest Plan needs to be presented to the NRC by 2008, and there will be more narrowly defined continuations of planning CARS from last year. **Chair Boyd** stated the certification final report documents will be sent to the FMAC when they are received by the DNR. She reported the DNR was complimented on doing above the standards in many areas. The reports are expected the second week of December.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Chair Boyd reported **Ms. Marten** was attending her last FMAC meeting; she has accepted a forest supervisor position in Pennsylvania. **Chair Boyd** is currently talking with Director Humphries and the forest service about a replacement. She wished **Ms. Marten** well in her new position.

Chair Boyd reported **Ms. Erin McDonough** has been appointed to the Great Lakes Forestry Alliance, as well as **Mr. David Matthews** from MFA. **Dr. LaCourt** just returned from their annual meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

ORV resource damage issues

Marketing and branding of Michigan wood presentation by George Berghorn (select Michigan wood)

2008 meeting dates

Action Items:

August, September and November Meeting Summaries

Public Perception Issues

Strategize Action Items

Review Bylaws for Quorum
Discussion on Action to take when Members do not Participate

NEXT MEETING

December 5, 2007
MUCC Board Room
2101 Wood Street, Lansing
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Forest Management Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.